



WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

6920 Yellowtail Road
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: (307) 777-7626
wwdc.state.wy.us

Mark Gordon
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Brandon L. Gebhart, P.E.
Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 9, 2020

To: Wyoming Water Development Commission

From: Brandon Gebhart, Director

Subject: Conceptual Aging Irrigation Infrastructure Account

The WDO has been working with The Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Committee to address an interim legislative topic, aging irrigation infrastructure in the state. To assist the Ag Committee, the WDO would like to offer a concept to create a new, Aging Infrastructure Program within the Water Development Program, or amend the Emergency Water Program to address aging infrastructure across the state. The conceptual program would be specific to critical, irrigation infrastructure 75-years old or older.

This conceptual program would be similar to our traditional programs and would include planning, feasibility and construction phases of projects. The major difference between the proposed program and current, traditional programs would be that the Commission would prioritize and rank aging infrastructure needs across the state and determine which projects advance and when, in concert with the sponsors. It is anticipated that this program would be a long-term program and address critical infrastructure with a systematic process. This would represent a shift away from an "application only" driven program to one which also proactively attempts to address known irrigation infrastructure deficiencies across the state. Some of the key concepts of the proposed Program are:

- Sponsors would submit a short-list of their top 3 (or more) critical infrastructure needs.
 - Describe the age, criticality and importance of each.
- The Commission would create criteria to determine the criticality and importance of individual facilities from which it would rank and prioritize based on a statewide comparison of all the facilities.
- The Commission would embark on analyses (Level I and II studies) of the prioritized infrastructure with a defined focus to only address the infrastructure it determines to be of a critical nature, with a focused scope. The analyses may include multiple structures from different districts to help refine which facilities need immediate attention and are higher priorities.

- Analyses may include an ability to pay and fund the aging infrastructure rehabilitation projects identified. This would evaluate the Sponsor's ability to pay, grant to loan funding scenarios and additional funding sources available (leveraging of State dollars).
- Sponsor's would participate in the projects and analyses, but the entire program and determinations of priorities would be directed by the Commission.